

Remarks

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of an informality on page 3 lines 8 through 9. The Applicant respectfully points out that this informality had previously been corrected in the preliminary amendment. However, to avoid any additional burden on the Examiner, the Applicant has provided the amendment enclosed herein. Review and acceptance is requested.

The Examiner has objected to claim 40 because it would appear that claim 40 should be dependent upon claim 39 rather than 29, and the Examiner has requested the Applicant to indicate whether or not claim 40 was intended to be dependent upon claim 39 or on claim 29. In responding to this objection, the Applicant submits that the dependency of claim 40 is correct and that the intent of the original claim language was to have claim 40 be dependent upon claim 29. Therefore, no correction is required.

The Examiner has objected to claim 55 under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 54. In responding to this objection, claim 55 has been cancelled.

Claims 39, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner points out that part b) of claim 39 states "b) joining a support structure web onto at least a portion of said thickenings to cover thickenings and to together adjacent thickenings ...". This language therefore recites a support structure web as a separate element

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attached to a portion of the thickenings. The Examiner states that this was not disclosed in the specification. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Examiner is referred to page 11 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the specification in which the disclosure of the support web as a separate structure is given (see in particular second paragraph first portion thereof). Therefore claims 39, 41, and 42 do satisfy the written description requirement. Review and acceptance is requested.

Claims 54 through 61 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Japanese patent to Lion corporation. In responding to these rejections, claims 54 through 61 have been cancelled.

Claims 29 through 38, 40 and 43 through 53 are allowed.

The Applicant believes this communication to be fully responsive to all remaining issues in this case and to place the case into a position of allowance. Review and acceptance and passage to issuance of all claims of record is therefore respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

05 Aug 04 14:59

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Respectfully submitted,

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August 03, 2004

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